Sl. No.	State/UT	No of Projects Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
14.	Madhya Pradesh	28	1333.08	969.30
15.	Maharashtra	18	1555.29	1460.83
16.	Manipur	3	87.68	27.35
17.	Meghaiaya	5	110.57	46.12
18.	Mizoram	11	708.86	235.21
19.	Nagaland	9	1071.50	544.23
20.	Orissa	7	467.05	154.25
21.	Punjab	5	119.00	26.90
22.	Rajasthan	27	2743.51	2510.45
23.	Sikkim	21	1497.33	951.25
24.	Tamilnadu	19	1898.82	1166.63
25.	Tripura	11	666.30	202.94
26.	Uttaranchal	7	778.44	621.94
27.	Uttar Pradesh	10	1410.80	1211.26
28.	West Bengal	15	918.54	444.34
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	5	17.75	14.63
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	2	8.07	6.46
32.	Delhi	31	3820.28	3671.15
33.	Daman & Diu	4	314.57	255.46
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	3	253.04	79.85
	TOTAL	419	35306.94	26754.69

Problems faced by domestic tourists

2216. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems faced by domestic tourists by way of reservation of journey, accommodation, etc.;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide tour packages, particularly during summer holidays, to help the middle and lower middle class tourists; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide subsidy for such tour packages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a problem of lack of availability of adequate confirmed seats/ berths in rail/coaches, airlines and accommodation for domestic tourists during the peak season.

(b) and (c) Tour packages are structured and operated by private sector tour operators and travel agents. In addition, the following cost effective tour packages particularly during the summer holidays are offered by India Tourism Development Corporation, Indian Airlines, Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation Ltd., and Ministry of Railways:—

1. India Tourism Development Corporation makes reservations for journey/accommodation for domestic tourists through various Ashok Travels & Tours (ATT) units spread across the country. Various tour packages have been floated by ATT during the summer holidays with minimum margin. There is no subsidy by the Government on these packages.

2. Indian Airlines has launched special holidays packages (branded as Indian Airlines Flyaways) which offer the facility of booking Air tickets, accommodation under a single window and the cost is reasonable. To make the packages affordable, Indian Airlines discounts its sector air fares by upto 25%. Also just within the cost of air fare, most packages include a 3 night/4 day holiday in a good category hotel with breakfast, airport transfer, sightseeing, taxes, etc.

3. Delhi Tourism & Transportation Development Corporation have been organising tour packages specially during summer holidays to various tourist places keeping in view the middle class people and Government employees also availing LTC facility. These tours are organised by non-AC luxury buses and accommodation on r'oom sharing basis is provided to make the packages more cost

effective. No subsidy is provided by the DT & TDC. However, it is ensured that the package are not very costly.

Regular tour packages are also offered for budget tourists by various other State Tourism Corporations etc.

4. The Ministry of Railways have proposed to run a special tourist train of ordinary Sleeper Class Coaches on a pre-determined schedule. There will be multiple boarding points from where the tourist can board the train and the tourists will be taken to various important places of tourist and historical importance. The Indian Railways, Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been entrusted with the formulation of comprehensive package based on the market survey in consultation with the various reputed Tour Operators/Travel Agents and the State Tourism Departments.

Economic benefits of tourism

2217. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study to assess the economic benefits of tourism in Tamil Nadu and other States is being undertaken;

(b) if so, the progress made thereon; and

(c) by when it will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKACHOWDHURY). (a) Astudy to assess the economic benefits of tourism in the States of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Orissa and Maharashtra was assigned to a consulting agency during the month of November. 2003.

(b) and (c) The consulting agency has since submitted the draft report which have been sent to the concerned State Governments for their comments which are awaited.

Irrigation Projects under AIBP

2218. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of last mile irrigation projects completed under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) as on 31st March, 2004, State-wise;